

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Cooperative Societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State come under the purview of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (A Central Act). The proposals for setting up of such Multi-State Cooperative Societies may be considered for registration in view of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 and rules framed thereunder. Hence, the question of encouragement or otherwise of the setting up of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, does not arise.

[Translation]

### Gauge Conversion in Madhya Pradesh

3092. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in Madhya Pradesh where metre gauge railway lines are existing;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to convert these metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(c) if so, the names of the railway lines out of these for which the action is being taken for gauge conversion;

(d) whether there is any proposal to convert the metre gauge rail lines from Gwalior to Shyampur-Kala and Bhind to Gwalior into broad gauge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Metre gauge lines are existing at the following places in Madhya Pradesh :

1. Nimach
2. Ratlam
3. Ujjain
4. Indore
5. Mhow and
6. Khandwa

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauge conversion of Nimach-Ratlam sections is an approved work, which is currently in progress and is likely to be completed in the Ninth Plan.

Surveys for conversion of Ratlam-Indore-Ujjain-Mhow and Mhow-Khandwa are in progress. Further consideration of the proposals will be possible, once the results of the surveys become available.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kala narrow gauge section to broad gauge and its extension to Kota is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal

will be possible, once the results of the survey become available.

Gwalior to Nonera is already an existing broad gauge line. Conversion of the line from Nonera to Bhind from narrow gauge to broad gauge, which forms a part of the approved work of Guna-Etawah new broad gauge line, will be taken up after completion of the construction of Guna-Gwalior new line.

[English]

### Jabalpur Railway Station

3039. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of Jabalpur Railway Station viz. corruption in reservation, fake reservation, no sitting arrangement in the reservation premises, defunct PCO boxes at the railway platform and dirty railway tracks, etc; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Jabalpur station has been provided with Computerised reservation facility which precludes the scope of fraud like selling of fake or counterfeit tickets. Some unscrupulous elements with connivance of railway staff however, indulge in malpractices like blocking of berths, cornering of accommodation etc. Two such cases have been reported recently in which railway administration has initiated action. Preventive, surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis in order to tackle such problems.

No arrangement is presently available in the reservation complex at Jabalpur station for seating of passengers seeking reservations. Railways are exploring the feasibility of providing sitting arrangement, if required.

Two manned telephone booths with STD/ISD facilities are provided on main platforms of Jabalpur station. These booths are maintained by P and T Department and action is taken to ensure that they are kept in working order.

For ensuring cleanliness of railway track adjacent to platforms, washable apron has been provided on Platform No. 1 and provision for washable apron for Platform No. 3 is being processed by the railway.

[Translation]

### Bhopal Gas Tragedy

3094. Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have incurred any expenditure on the treatment and other items relating to the Bhopal gas victims till now; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). According to information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh year-wise expenditure on treatment of gas affected victims and medical infrastructure at Bhopal is as follows :

Year	Total Expenditure (in Rs.)
1985-86	67,51,939
1986-87	3,48,51,627
1987-88	4,74,43,694
1988-89	5,51,94,849
1989-90	6,15,73,974
1990-91	5,87,36,736
1991-92	6,14,05,040
1992-93	7,49,20,440
1993-94	8,15,30,531
1994-95	8,70,49,939
1995-96	7,14,38,606
1996-97	1,65,29,325

#### Movement of Freight Traffic

3095. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for the movement of goods by the Railways is continuously on the increase during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total demand made to the Railways for 1991-92 and 1995-96;

(c) whether in view of the increasing demand for the goods traffic, the Government have added more wagons during the said years;

(d) if so, the additional number of wagons with the Railways during the year 1995-96 in comparison to the number thereof during the year 1991-92; and

(e) the number of old wagons weeded out during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target and actual loading of revenue earning traffic during 1991-92 and 1995-96 was as follows :

Year	Target (million tonnes)	Actual loading (million tonnes)
1991-92	337.00	337.98
1995-96	385.00	390.57

(c) Commensurate with the transport requirement for the goods traffic, the Government have added the following new wagons produced in the years 1991-92 to 1995-96 :

Year	No. of wagons manufactured (in four-wheeler units)
1991-92	25778
1992-93	26129
1993-94	19649
1994-95	10575
1995-96	17950

(d) Ownership of BG wagons (in FWUs) on Indian Railways was 474008 as on 1.4.1991 and 466087 as on 1.4.1995.

(e) 89,485 BG wagons (in FWUs) were condemned during the period 1.4.1991 to 31.3.1995, and during 1995-96 the provisional figure is 19140.

[English]

#### Railway Track Sleepers

3096. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of RCC Railway track sleeper were kept in the Plot No. 256 and 257 of village Tiheri Math under the Massauri Police Station Patna District near Nadaul Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to remove them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) It has not been possible to ascertain the exact location of Plot No. 256 and 257. However, near Nadaul Station on Patna-Gaya Section of Eastern Railway some Prestressed Concrete Sleepers are lying near Railway boundary.

(b) Prestressed Concrete sleepers were unloaded by the side of track near Nadual Railway Station in Patna-Gaya Section of Danapur Div. of E.Rly. for carrying out casual renewal of worn-out sleepers. About 35 nos. of such sleepers have rolled down the embankment and are lying in Nadaul station limit, near Railway boundary.

(c) Eastern Railway has been advised to retrieve the above sleepers at the earliest.

(d) Does not arise.